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POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS).

THE ACCURACY OF DIAGNOSIS UNDER EPIDEMIC CONDITIONS.

In a recent number of the bulletin of the New York City department of health it is stated that of the 9,418 cases which were reported during the epidemic of poliomyelitis in New York City this year, 4,474 were treated in the health department hospitals. Of these 4,474 cases sent to the hospitals, 96 of the patients were found after observation not to have any serious illness. Of the remaining 4,378 patients, 49 turned out to have diseases other than poliomyelitis.

This shows that of the cases and suspected cases sent to the hospitals the diagnoses were correct in approximately 97 per cent and that in only 3 per cent was the illness from which the patients suffered not poliomyelitis. This is a better result than might have been expected under the circumstances. With the prevailing epidemic conditions and the intense public interest it would be but natural that the practicing physicians and parents should have constantly in mind the possibility that any acute illness might be poliomyelitis and that there would be a tendency to err in erroneously calling many cases of illness infantile paralysis.

The diseases affecting the 49 cases not having poliomyelitis were varied. There were 2 cases of hysteria, 8 of tuberculous meningitis, 4 of broncho-pneumonia, 2 with diphtheritic paralysis, and 3 with cerebrospinal meningitis.

RELATIONSHIP OF MILK SUPPLIES TO TYPHOID FEVER.¹

By W. H. FROST, Passed Assistant Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

The general nature of the relationship between milk supplies and the dissemination of typhoid fever is so well understood that, especially before this association, a detailed discussion of the avenues through which milk may become infected, or of the principles and method of safeguarding milk supplies from this danger, would be superfluous. There are, however, certain important particulars in which our present

¹ Presented before American Association of Medical Milk Commissions, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 10, 1916.